



Head Teacher – Mr M Loveridge

Dear Parent/Carers

I trust that you are all well and that your families are in good health. I also hope that you are able to find time to enjoy the VE celebrations on Friday. We are planning to upload any pictures you give us permission to share to the Facebook page to show families enjoying their tea parties. Please post on the page, as usual, and Mrs Caslin will ensure that it all appears on the school timeline. Thank you all for your ongoing support and for all of the amazing feedback that has been received.

I am sure that you are all, like me, finding this period of lockdown very challenging. Getting used to the 'new normal' and what that might mean is creating anxiety amongst all members of our communities. We are doing our very best to support you in the best way possible. If you need more (or less) contact/work then please let one of us know through the usual channels. I am delighted to hear that parents, carers and students are settling in to what works for them in terms of work and rest. Please do not feel that you have to complete all of the work being sent home; the circumstances we find ourselves in are new to us all. Thank you for the way you have adapted; please take time to look after yourself and your families.

Mental health guidelines clearly state that one way to minimise the difficulty we may have in lockdown is to try to maintain some routines. We are all anticipating a return to more 'normal' education at some point in the future. At this stage we are still waiting for government guidelines but when that is available we will approach it in a planned and sensitive way. One way that you can begin to help support the children's return to school is by beginning to have some, school related, routines whilst at home. Ensuring the children get dressed most days, as well as starting to have lunch at a fixed time can be helpful. It may also help with transition back to school if students do their day time activities in different parts of the house. I am acutely aware that lockdown is a challenge for many families; trying to introduce some of these routines, if you have not already done so, may help to avoid problems when the children do eventually come back to school.

I would like to continue to reassure Year 8 students, that when the appropriate time comes, we will organise something that will give you the residential experience that you have missed.

I am conscious that supermarket vouchers for those eligible for FSM are still proving problematic, in some cases. I can assure you that we are doing all we can to make that process as smooth as possible for parent/carers.

There are many ways to reduce the chances of catching Covid-19. Government advice still states that effective handwashing is one of the best ways to avoid cross-contamination. It is essential that everyone washes their hands more often, using soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Hand washing with soap employs mechanical action that loosens bacteria and viruses from the skin, rinsing them into the drain. Drying hands afterwards makes the skin less hospitable to the virus. Hand sanitiser can be effective if soap is not available or the situation makes using soap less feasible but using hand sanitiser provides none of the virus-destroying friction that rubbing your hands together and rinsing with water provides.



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The latest guidance and video on hand washing can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

Social distancing also remains in place and we would encourage you all to maintain safety through minimal non essential contact with anyone outside of your home.

Wiltshire council have set up a Well-Being hub for anybody that may need support. The contact details are wellbeinghub@wiltshire.gov.uk or 0300 003 4576. Oxford Health NHS Trust, which runs local children's mental health services, has also launched a helpline for children and young people during the Coronavirus outbreak. The helpline is available 24/7 seven days a week. It is open every weekday from 9am to 5pm (01865 903777). If you need to contact them at any other time the number is 01865 901000.

If you need to make contact with key staff, at the school, then relevant email addresses are on the front page of the school website.

If you have any questions, or you need clarification about anything then please email the school via the usual channels or mention it when you receive your phone calls.

Stay safe and please look after yourself and your families.

Very best wishes

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'M. Loveridge', written in a cursive style.

Mr M Loveridge